



Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens e-Newsletter December 2015

HAPPENING THIS MONTH!

Memberships Sale

At the Arboretum
Saturday, December 5
1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
(Weather Permitting)

Volunteer Workday

Saturday, December 12
9 AM-12 PM

Nature Walk

Saturday, December 12
9:30 AM-10:30 AM

Save The Dates!

The Many Uses of Plants - Themed Nature Walks

January 9 & May 14

**SUPPORTERS &
PARTNERS**



Picture by: Florence Belle Photography

THE "SIMPLY NATURAL" CHOICE

If you are seeking a special place for a simple and brief ceremony, such as a wedding, elopement, vow renewal, or perhaps a memorial for a loved one, the Arboretum now offers the Simply Natural Ceremony Package. With six different site locations to choose from, your 2-hour site rental includes one location, site rental coordinator, and site preparation.

This site rental package is available for \$600 plus tax and is limited to a maximum of 25 people, including the wedding party and officiant. Except for a professional photographer and his camera equipment, no other products, equipment or food and drink may be brought on

BRONZE PARTNER

**Laurence Gierum
Pat & Cliff Jeremiah
Anthony John Rigney, PA
& Rigney Family
of Jacksonville, Florida
Dr. Todd Sack & Dr. Barbara
Sharp**

SILVER PARTNER

**Eldon & Martha Bekkum
Kotas Family Foundation/
GE Foundation
Mary Anne & Anwar Saadeh
Southern Wine & Spirits**

GOLD PARTNER

**bestbet Jacksonville
David & Bonnie Foster
Marcia Mederos**

For more information about the
Donor Programs, go to
www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/donor-programs/

Thank you!

Shop at Amazon Smile

The Jacksonville Arboretum is registered with Amazon Smile. This amazon.com foundation donates a portion of all sales to a shopper's favorite charity, while providing the same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience using your normal account and settings. Enjoy shopping and supporting the Arboretum by clicking [Buy at Smile!](#) or purchase

site. Visit www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/siterentals for more information.

The Simply Natural Ceremony offers an informal, yet elegant option with just the sights and sounds of nature as a beautiful backdrop for your very special occasion.

Have A Merry Membership

The holidays are a perfect time to give a gift that keeps on giving, such as a membership to the Jacksonville Arboretum and Gardens.

Your gift of membership not only provides the Arboretum with the funds needed for operations and maintenance, your gift recipient will be invited to twice-yearly "Nature at Night" events including free food and entertainment. Those at the Dual level and above will receive a coupon for a year's subscription to Better Homes and Gardens magazine. The Family/Household and Friend level of membership includes reciprocal entry to many other US gardens at free or reduced rates.

Of course the greatest benefit of membership is becoming a vital part of the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens mission of cultivating a unique environment for recreation, education and inspiration.

For membership details click here: [Membership](#)

through smile.amazon.com

Become a JAG Member

We have revised our membership levels and added more benefits in appreciation of your support. Details are available on our website. By becoming a member or donor, you are supporting the Arboretum's day to day operations and planned improvements, plus your donation is tax-deductible.

Membership Levels

- \$ 40 Single
- \$ 55 Dual
- \$ 70 Family
- \$ 100 Friend

Supporters & Corporate Partners

- \$ 250 Bronze Partner
- \$ 500 Silver Partner
- \$1,000 Gold Partner

John Bartram Society

- \$ 2,500+ Gatekeeper
- \$ 5,000+ Steward
- \$ 10,000+ President's Council

FUN FACTS




Photo courtesy of Charles Warren CharlesWarren@pbao.com/H4rdark/

Common Name: Gopher tortoise
Scientific Name: *Gopherus polyphemus*
Family: Testudinidae (51 species, 16 genera)

GOPHER TORTOISE

Though Gopher Tortoise burrows are familiar sites in protected sandy uplands in the southeastern coastal plains from eastern Louisiana to southern South Carolina, the species and its habitat are rare throughout its range. Each tortoise will dig and live in multiple burrows in its territory. Gopher tortoises are considered a keystone species because many other animals- up to 300 invertebrates and 60 vertebrates- live in the burrow with them. Some of these commensals, including gopher frogs, indigo snakes, and Eastern diamondback rattlesnakes, are endangered species.

- Burrows are about 25 feet long, and angle downward at about 30 degree angle to a depth of 6 feet.
- Gopher tortoise diet consists mostly of grasses and legumes but they also eat low growing fruits.
- Gophers are mature when 10-15 years old and can live up to 60 years in nature.
- An average of 6 ping-pong ball like eggs are laid by mature females near the entrance to one of their burrows.
- If incubation temperature is above 85 degrees the hatchlings will be females; if below they will be males.

Adopt-A-Species This Holiday Season

Adopt-a-species personalized certificates, with photographs of the organisms and accompanying Fun Facts Sheets, are a great way to raise cheer at the holidays. The \$30 proceeds from a single species, one year adoption will help support the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens and be a delightful, educational gift. For more information and a list of other species available for adoption, visit our website - www.jacksonvillearboretum.org/support/.

To join or purchase a
gift membership,
click [JOIN](#)
and Support Us!
THANK YOU!




Giving Tuesday
- More Rewarding Than
Black Friday or Cyber Monday

Please remember the Jacksonville Arboretum & Gardens on Giving Tuesday. Your donations are vital to the Arboretum. They help keep the grounds beautiful and safe. They support our programs and events. Above all they help us advance the mission of cultivating a unique environment for recreation, education, and inspiration. Click here [I'm A Giver](#) and feel good knowing you are supporting a great local nonprofit.

Memberships Available on Site

Do you hate the last minute craziness of holiday shopping? Then come by the membership table at



the Arboretum on Saturday, December 5th from 1:30 - 3:30 (weather permitting). There will be a wide range of membership options available, as well as t-shirts and honey.

OUR MISSION

*Cultivating a unique environment
for recreation, education, and inspiration.*